

State forests announce open house dates for 2008

In the interest of hearing Hoosiers' input on the operation, funding and staffing of Indiana's state forests, the DNR has announced dates for open houses at state forests.

Meetings at each property will include displays about recreational activities, budget issues, staffing, major projects, the 2008-2013 Division of Forestry Strategic Plan, invasive species control and forest resource management. Attendees will have an opportunity to talk with DNR personnel or, if they prefer, submit written comments concerning forest and recreation management policies and programs. Staff from each property will lead a short tour of nearby sites to give visitors a better understanding of the activities planned. Light refreshments will be served.

"These open houses provide Hoosiers with a chance to receive firsthand information about how the state forests are working to provide diverse wildlife habitat, forest products and recreational opportunities," said State Forester John Seifert. "They also allow us to receive valuable feedback from our neighbors and users about state forest management issues. I would encourage everyone who has an interest in the state forests to participate in this year's open houses."

Hoosiers who cannot attend an open house can review and comment on management plans online. Beginning this year, the Division of Forestry posts all tract management guides for public inspection and comment on the Division's web site at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/stateforests/index.html>. Click on the link to "State Forest Management Guides" to see the current list of guides available.

State forest open houses will be held at four properties this year. Dates and locations are as follows. All times are Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

- Tuesday, March 18, 2008 at Greene-Sullivan State Forest, 3-7 PM. The office is located 1.5 miles south of Dugger, on State Road 159. Phone 812-648-2810. Staff from Owen-Putnam State Forest will also be present. The tour leaves from the forest office at 5 PM.
- Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at Yellowwood State Forest, 3-7 PM. The office is located 7 miles west of Nashville just north of State Road 46. Phone 812-988-7945. Staff from Morgan-Monroe State Forest will also be present. The tour leaves from the office at 5 PM.
- Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at Ferdinand State Forest, 3-7 PM. The office is located on State Road 264 approximately 4 miles northeast of Ferdinand. Phone 812-367-1524. Staffs from Martin and Harrison-Crawford State Forests will also be present. The tour leaves from the office at 5 PM.
- Saturday, April 26, 2008 at Clark State Forest, 11AM – 2 PM. The office is located 1 mile north of Henryville on State Road 31. Phone 812-294-4306. Staffs from Deam

Lake and Starve Hollow State Recreation Areas and Jackson-Washington and Selmier State Forests will also be present. The tour leaves from the office at 1:00 PM.

For more information or detailed directions, please call the state forest office at the number listed above.

The DNR Division of Forestry promotes and practices good stewardship of natural, recreational and cultural resources on Indiana's public and private forest lands. This stewardship produces continuing benefits, both tangible and intangible, for present and future generations.